DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 372 494 EA 025 975

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TITLE	The Home-School Connection: Guidelines for Working with Parents.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-435-08820-3
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	86p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Heinemann, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801-3912 ($15).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Elementary Education; Experiential Learning; Foreign Countries; Parent Influence; *Parent Participation; *Parent Role; *Parents as Teachers; *Parent School Relationship; *Partnerships in Education; School Community Relationship
IDENTIFIERS	*Australia

ABSTRACT

Parents can be involved in a variety of ways with their schools. This book shows how to establish and maintain a home-school connection in which parents play educational roles to enrich the school program. As educators, parents can serve as spectators, organizers, instructors, and learners. Many of the strategies and examples cited are drawn from the experience at Pennycoe, an Australian elementary school that has successfully pursued the home-school connection. Part 1, "Understanding the Connection," contains six chapters. Chapter 1 describes different parent roles and the home-school learning connection, and chapter 2 discusses how parents can effectively serve as teachers. "Education for living" is described in the third chapter. The Pennycoe Project is detailed in chapter 4. Chapter 5 describes parents' educational roles more fully and gives examples of how parents have adopted these roles in home-school connection programs. Three case stories of home/community sessions are provided in the sixth chapter. Part 2, "Making the Connection," includes four chapters. Chapters 7 through 9 offer guidelines for creating a collaborative climate, conducting parent training sessions, and carrying out a discussion project. The final chapter contains worksheets for developing the curriculum plan. Twenty-two figures are included. (LMI)

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